UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/331
25 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 25 March 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 25 March 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

Tajikistan's reaction to the missile and bomb strikes against Yugoslavia, which have caused civilian casualties, was one of great anxiety and concern.

We are deeply convinced that the escalation of the situation in the Balkans will result in tremendous political and moral damage to the cause of peace and the principles of democracy, and that it will destabilize the situation not only in Europe but throughout the world.

Tajikistan fully supports the Russian Federation's constructive position on the Yugoslav problem and, as a country that has experienced the horrors of a civil war, believes that the events in Kosovo will give rise to yet another hotbed of tension, jeopardizing the international community's efforts to implement international norms based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, non-use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, reaffirming the position of its Government, which has consistently supported the solution of conflict situations through exclusively peaceful means, calls upon all parties to the conflict to begin peace talks immediately in order to prevent further senseless killing and destruction.